

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
FULL COMMITTEE HEARING ON CHINA CURRENCY**

**STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN KEVIN BRADY
Ranking Member, Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee**

March 24, 2010

The topic of discussion today has long been an issue that causes blood pressure to rise among many Members of Congress. We are all concerned that China, a major trading partner, is leveraging an unfair advantage over American businesses through use of an artificially low currency. To be blunt, no one likes an unfair playing field, especially when it's tilted against American families. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I commend you for holding this hearing to examine whether such practices harm American competitiveness and to look at the most appropriate response to such acts.

The global economic downturn has hurt workers all over the world. It is important to recognize that international trade will be a vital tool for attaining a sustainable economic recovery and for creating jobs everywhere. Our experience at home confirms the benefits to our workers when we expand our exports.

I firmly believe that our trading partners need to play by the rules. I also firmly believe that if we expect this of our trading partners, the United States has a duty to lead responsibly and uphold our WTO obligations. Therefore, I am very concerned about some proposals to unilaterally impose new duties on imports from China, either outright or through questionable expansion of our trade remedy laws. These duties could well run afoul of our WTO obligations, which could expose our exporters and our workers to retaliation. In addition, they could raise prices here and cause inflation, so we must consider the broader impact on our economy and the worldwide economy.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with you and the rest of my colleagues on a bipartisan basis as we continue our work on this important issue.